Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating an information handling system comprising:

providing an add-in-card (AIC) connector exhibiting a first bus standard, the AIC connector accepting both AICs compatible with the first bus standard and AICs not compatible with the first bus standard;

providing a direct path between the AIC connector and a first bus when an AIC exhibiting the first bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector; and

providing a translation path between the AIC connector and the first bus when an AIC exhibiting a standard other than the first bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein an AIC employs a first protocol.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the AIC employs a second protocol different from the first protocol.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the AIC includes a PCIE device.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the AIC includes a non-PCIE device.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the translation path includes an integrated function block which exhibits a function needed by the AIC.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein the integrated function is a fixed integrated function.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the integrated function is an audio function.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the integrated function is a communications function.

10. The method of claim 3 wherein the translation path includes a plurality of integrated function blocks, each integrated function block exhibiting a different function.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein the translation path includes a programmable integrated function block which is capable of providing a plurality of functions.

12. The method of claim 11 including requesting by the AIC that the programmable integrated function block switch to providing a function requested by the AIC.

13. An information handling system (IHS) comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor by a host bridge;

a first bus exhibiting a first bus standard, the first bus being coupled to the host bridge;

an add-in-card (AIC) connector compatible with the first bus standard, the AIC connector accepting both AICs compatible with the first bus standard and AICs not compatible with the first bus standard;

a direct path between the AIC connector and the first bus for use when an AIC exhibiting the first bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector; and

a translation path between the AIC connector and the first bus for use when an AIC exhibiting a standard other than the bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector.

14. The IHS of claim 13 wherein an AIC in the AIC connector employs a first protocol.

15. The IHS of claim 14 wherein an AIC in the AIC connector employs a second protocol.

16. The IHS of claim 14 wherein the AIC includes a PCIE device.

17. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the AIC includes a non-PCIE device.

18. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the translation path includes an integrated function block which exhibits a function needed by the AIC.

19. The IHS of claim 18 wherein the integrated function block exhibits fixed integrated function.

20. The IHS of claim 18 wherein the function is an audio function.

21. The IHS of claim 18 wherein the function is a communications function.

22. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the translation path includes a plurality of integrated function blocks, each integrated function block exhibiting a different function.

23. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the translation path includes a programmable integrated function block which is capable of providing a plurality of different selectable functions.